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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

UNCLASSIFIED

April 2, 1979

TO: The Secretary

THROUGH: M - Ben H. Read
C - Matthew Nimetz

FROM: L - Lee R. Mark

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR.
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 2/27/81
E.O.□ or XDS□ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH: REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS □
DECLASSIFIED□ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED□
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Jonestown Update

Disposition of the Remains

On Thursday, March 29, a California Superior Court Judge ordered that the 554 Jonestown bodies at Dover Air Force Base be transported to California for burial at the expense of the People's Temple.

The judge ordered that the bodies be transported by truck but not in a caravan. The 250 unidentified bodies will be buried in the San Francisco area. The 403 bodies that have been identified but not claimed will be held at Oakland Army Base for 30 days (provided the USG agrees). Any bodies remaining unclaimed at the end of the 30 days will be buried.

The People's Temple receiver and the Emergency Relief Committee (composed of interfaith clergy in the San Francisco area) will implement the judge's order.

USG Funding

We overcame Senator Church's objections to using AID's Contingency Fund to finance Jonestown expenses, but Zablocki has now questioned this use of AID funds. (2)

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A reply to Zablocki has been drafted but it was not sent pending markup of the AID legislation. AID expects to send the reply next week. Hopefully we can provide fund cites to DOD shortly.

HFAC Investigation

Last week HFAC staff interviewed the Ambassador and other U.S. Embassy personnel in Georgetown, Guyana. The staff appeared particularly concerned with Embassy personnel's understanding of the Privacy and Freedom of Information Acts, and the impact of these laws on reporting from the field. The HFAC investigation is apparently drawing to a close; we are told that they expect to issue their report within a month or two.

cc: ARA - Mr. Bushnell

L:LRMarks;L/T:TKaumann;CA:CDLFacido:cdj:4/2/79
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